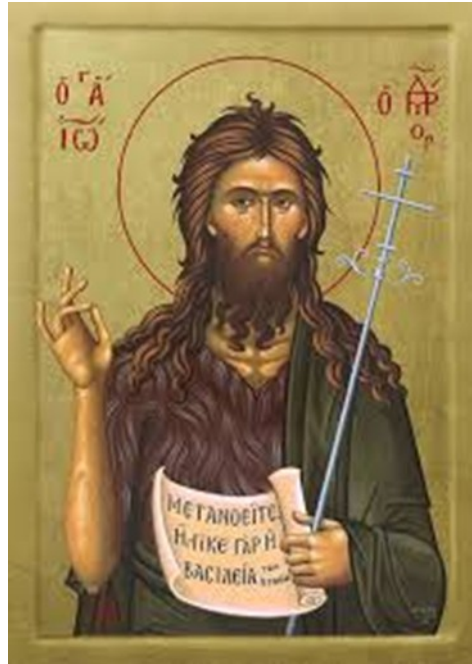


Love of Christ Lutheran Church

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Mesa AZ 85205

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Welcome to LOC's Weekly E-News Second Sunday in Advent, December 7, 2025

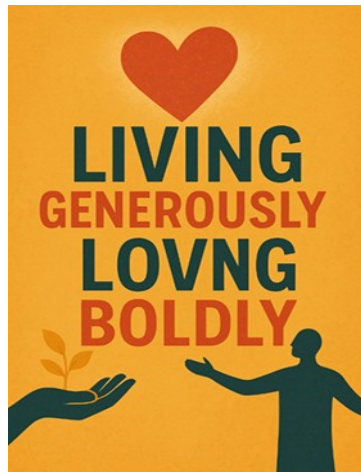


Advent Preparation

On this second Sunday of Advent, we are introduced to John the Baptist. It doesn't take long for this text to reveal that John is a significant person in the foretelling of Jesus' ministry. In this season of Advent, John the Baptist implores us to stop and slow down, to repent, to turn to God, to think about the kind of Messiah that comes into our lives. God brings us a unique Messiah that is so very different than the rest of the world's appointed or celebrated leaders and saviors. How do you prepare the way the path for the coming of Christ? How does the world tell us to prepare for Christmas?



The Advent season is a four-week period before Christmas that celebrates the anticipation and coming of Jesus Christ, the Messiah. The origin of "advent" is from the Latin word *adventus* which simply translates "coming" or "arrival". Not only is the Christian meaning for preparation and celebration of the coming of Jesus Christ, his birth at Christmas, but also to celebrate the new life when someone trusts Jesus Christ as their Savior, and lastly, the anticipation of Jesus' returning. This week we light the "Peace" candle acknowledging Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace.



Radical Humility and Gratitude

In Philippians 4:6–7, Paul sums up an entire theology of prayer practice in very concise form: “Pray with gratitude, and the peace of Christ, which is bigger than knowledge or understanding, will guard both your mind and your heart in Christ Jesus.” From that place we stop making distinctions based on our personal preferences and judgments. Only a pre-existent attitude of gratitude, a deliberate choice of love over fear, a desire to be positive instead of negative, will allow us to live in the spacious place Paul describes as “the peace of Christ.”

All the truly great persons I have ever met are characterized by what I would call radical humility and gratitude. They are deeply convinced that they are drawing from another source; they are instruments. Their genius is not their own; it is borrowed. We are moons, not suns, except in our ability to pass on the light. Our life is not our own; yet, at some level, enlightened people know that their life has been given to them as a sacred trust. They live in gratitude and confidence, and they try to let the flow continue through them. They know that “love is repaid by love alone,” as both St. Francis of Assisi and St. Thérèse of Lisieux have said.

It is important that we ask, seek, and knock to keep ourselves in right relationship with life itself. Life is a gift, totally given to us without cost, every day of it, and every part of it. A daily and chosen attitude of gratitude will keep our hands open to expect that life, allow that life, and receive that life at ever-deeper levels of satisfaction—but never to think we deserve it. Those who live with such open and humble hands receive life’s “gifts, full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over into their lap” (Luke 6:38).

In my experience, if we are not radically grateful every day, resentment always takes over. Moreover, to ask for “our daily bread” is to recognize that it is already being given. Not to ask is to take our own efforts, needs, and goals—and ourselves—far too seriously. In the end, it is not our own doing, or grace would not be grace. It is God’s gift, not a reward for work well done. It is nothing for us to be boastful about. We are God’s work of art, created in Christ Jesus. All we can do is be what God’s Spirit makes us to be, and be thankful to God for the riches God has bestowed on us. Humility, gratitude, and loving service to others are probably the most appropriate responses we can make. (Father Richard Rohr)



Leadership Needs moving into 2026

2-Board Members

2 -Endowment Committee Members

As the LoC Board of Directors looks to 2026, there will be a need, beginning March 1, for two new Board members, one to two Endowment Committee members, and six members of the Nominating Committee. If you are curious about any of these areas for possibly sharing your time and abilities, please contact one of the pastors or Board President Doug Price. We invite the congregation to pray for the Holy Spirit to raise the gifted people from this congregation to serve the leadership needs of this congregation.

Young Adult Get Together!



What is a Young Adult? Anyone between the ages of 18 and 35!

Mark your calendar for Sunday, December 7th at 11:45.

We will begin by meeting in the CoC at 12:00 and receive our shopping lists and gift cards to finish up the shopping for our Christmas Project. If you have any questions, please contact Laura Kuegemann (Laurakuegemann@gmail.com) or Ben Peters (benji31421017@gmail.com).

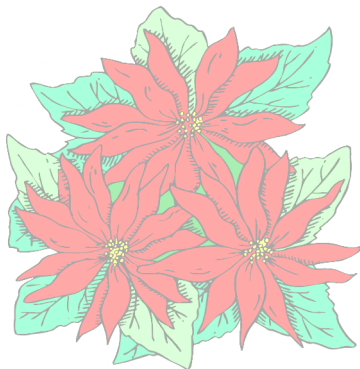


By What Authority: Rethinking Early Christian History

Wednesday, 6PM in the Fellowship Hall

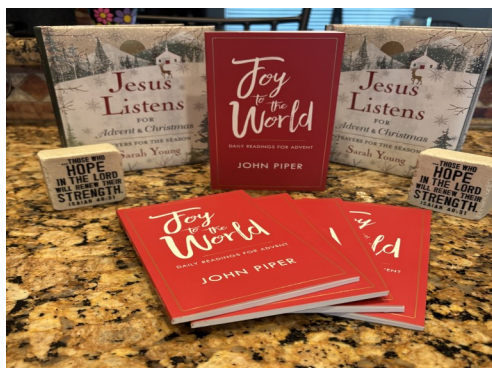
We are on a journey through the first five centuries of the Early Church. It provides helpful background in how the Holy Spirit worked through the global and diverse movement of believers and communities coming together. How they dealt with Emperor and Empire. How they navigated, debated, and determined our early creeds and church organization. This course is on Wednesdays through February 11. Whether you can attend some of the classes or all, all are welcome to join.

Upcoming Topics: 12/10 Grace and Law; **12/17-1/7 Christmas Break**; 1/14 Christianity and Judaism



Order Your Poinsettia by Dec. 14

We will be decorating both our chancel areas with red poinsettias this Christmas season. We will be ordering the foil wrapped plants from a local greenhouse at a cost of \$18 ea. We invite you to give a red poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one. Your order and check must be received by December 14. Order forms will be available in the Sanctuary and Center of Compassion!



Book Nook News

The Book Nook just got these new books and booklets just in time to celebrate Advent.

We also have Advent calendars which are not shown but readily available at the Book Nook. Come in and see what we have!



Calling All Bakers

Cookie Ministry is looking for people who like to bake. The Cookie Ministry is part of the Faith in Action programs at Love of Christ. This ministry makes cookies for our various events that are held here on our campus and beyond our campus. If you are interested in baking cookies for this ministry, please contact Eunice Ketterling at ketts14az@gmail.com

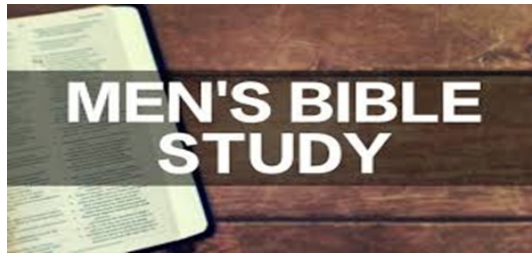
Community Garden News



The weather has cooled down. That signals the start of the fall gardening season! Come join us and grow something beautiful. Questions? Contact Nancy Dntoll74@gmail.com

The next Naomi Circle will meet on Monday, December 8th at 11:00am in the Fellowship hall for a Christmas Potluck!

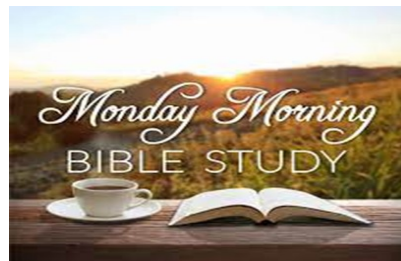
Contact Pat Shaw at pattomshaw@cox.net



Pastor Steve is leading a new weekly early morning Men's Bible Study on Mondays, 6:30-7:30AM in the Leadership Room. We are studying Paul's letter to the Ephesians. Men of all ages are welcome to participate.



Online Video introductions provided by our pastors of Sunday Lectionary readings may be found on Facebook, YouTube or loveofchristchurch.net



**Monday Morning Bible Study in the Leadership room 10:30—Coffee Fellowship,
11:00AM Bible Study.**



Prayer Share Care Women's Bible Study

All women are invited to a weekly Bible study group called Prayer Share Care. This group meets on Thursday afternoons at 1:00 in the Leadership Room. We will be discussing the topic of Lament and How Lament Can Lead to Joy.

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Nanette at nanette@locic.org



Music Notes....

Dear Church Family,

We are thrilled to invite you into a season filled with music, celebration, and fellowship through our Music Ministry! A special event is coming up, and we would love for you to be a part of it.

1. Christmas Cantata

Join us on **Sunday, December 14th**, with performances at **9:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.** This will be a beautiful celebration of the season that you won't want to miss.

Cantata rehearsals on **Thursdays 6—7:30pm** in the Sanctuary. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at jungmusic@locle.org.

2. Handbell Ringers Needed

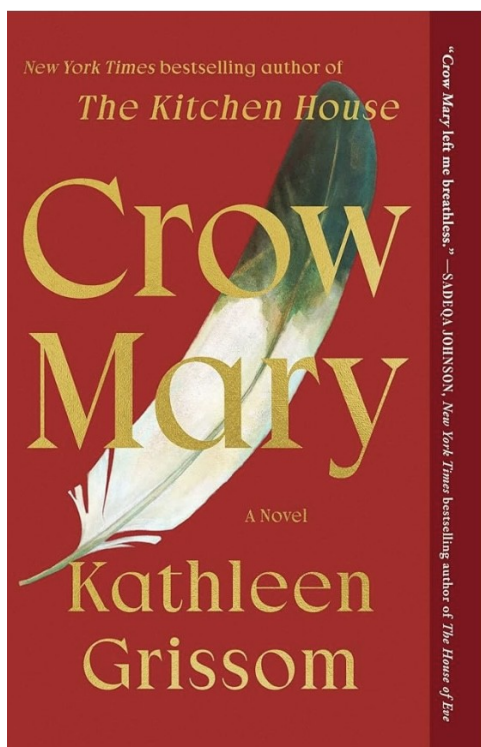
Do you read music and count beats? We would love to have you join our Handbell Choir! We are looking for ringers for both monthly Sunday performances and the Christmas Cantata.

Rehearsals are held **Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. in the Greenroom**. If you're interested, please let me know—we'd love to ring in the season with you! You can contact me at jungmusic@locle.org

We can't wait to celebrate this wonderful season of music, fellowship, and joy with all of you.

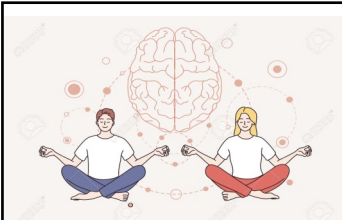
With gratitude and excitement,
Jung Lee

The LoC Book Club will meet on Sunday, January 11, to discuss the book below:



In 1872, sixteen-year-old Goes First, a Crow Native woman, marries Abe Farwell, a white fur trader. He gives her the name Mary, and they set off on the long trip to his trading post in Saskatchewan, Canada. Along the way, she finds a fast friend in a Métis named Jeannie; makes a lifelong enemy in a wolfer named Stiller; and despite learning a dark secret of Farwell's past, falls in love with her husband.

The winter trading season passes peacefully. Then, on the eve of their return to Montana, a group of drunken whiskey traders slaughters forty Nakota—despite Farwell's efforts to stop them. Mary, hiding from the hail of bullets, sees the murderers, including Stiller, take five Nakota women back to their fort. She begs Farwell to save them, and when he refuses, Mary takes two guns, creeps into the fort, and saves the women from certain death. Thus, she sets off a whirlwind of colliding cultures that brings out the worst and best in the cast of unforgettable characters and pushes the love between Farwell and Crow Mary to the breaking point. Contact Penny Day for questions at ptdayser@gmail.com



Faith stretch yoga **meets on Thursdays at 9:00am in Outreach room.**
For questions and more information, text Georgia at 406-925-0013 or
email: nonnagg51@gmail.com .



YOUTH AT LOVE OF CHRIST
CALLED. GATHERED. SENT.

There is hangout this Sunday from 10 to Noon in the Youth Room!

There is Youth Group this Wednesday night from 6-7:30pm in Youth Room!

Contact Mason Weatherly for more info at masonw@locic.org



Confirmation

Confirmation will be held on Wednesday nights from 6PM to 7PM in the room 48.

Listed below is the schedule:

December 10th

Any questions, please contact Pastor Nanette at nanette@locic.org



Sunday School offered at 9:00 and 9:50

Our Sunday School Ministry has begun. For ages Pre K thru 3rd grade, Sunday School is from 9:10-9:50. Children are to come to church with their parents and are dismissed for Sunday School after the Children's Message. They return to worship during Communion. For grades 4-6, Sunday school begins at 9:50 and they are done at 10:20. Sunday School takes place in the Godly Play room. For any questions, please contact Pastor Nanette at nanette@loclc.org

WOW Children's Musical Cantata...For ages 4-Seventh Grade. Please contact Jung at Jungmusic@loclc.org for more information.



Fun Food and Faith

For grades 4,5,and 6 will meet again on

December 21st, 3:30 pm.

Please contact Pastor Nanette for more information.

Children's Nativity and Bethlehem Booths on Dec. 21st from 3:30-5:00 in the CoC!



Come and enjoy the story of Jesus retold through the voices of children!

Musical instruments will be played by our grades 4,5,and 6! And after the Story of Jesus' Birth, everyone can walk around the various Booths of Bethlehem! Come and learn the Dreidel game, what a synagogue was like, how to weave, what kind of spices were available, cookies to decorate, and so much more!



Service opportunities

Reverse Advent Food Boxes: We have some more boxes available in the Narthex of the Sanctuary.

Boxes are due back anytime from Dec. 21-Dec. 28.

Wrapping Christmas Gift Event Sunday, Dec. 7th.

Everyone is welcome to participate in rooms 48, 49, and 50.

ELCA Good Gifts: For a different kind of a gift, see the Good Gifts tables in the Narthex of the Sanctuary and CoC.

December 21 Children's Nativity and Bethlehem Booths! 3:30 COC

Family Promise (December 28-Jan 4)

Here are some of the ways you can give both Locally and to the World!

ELCA World Hunger and Good Gifts:

Stories cut across generations. They show us the ways we belong and how we have an obligation to one another. They show us places where things look the same as they have before and where oppression reigns. And they show us where God breaks in to demand that things be different. The key is how we react when we hear the stories of our neighbors. Perhaps most challenging, gospel justice can enter into our communities when we make ourselves vulnerable enough to tell stories of where we have been hurt and where we have hurt others.

The average American spends more than \$900 a year on Christmas gifts. Yet, when we think about the best gifts we have given or received, often what makes them memorable is not the gift itself but the story behind it. ELCA Good Gifts enables you to purchase a gift in honor of a loved one and support real projects from a variety of ELCA ministries — including ELCA World Hunger. Check out some fun and educational ways to get your congregation involved with ELCA Good Gifts: Visit <https://goodgifts.elca.org/> to order your Good Gifts today.

Local Giving:

The LoC Christmas Family Project: In the past few years we have been working with our pre-school, Salk ES, and Wilson ES to help provide Christmas gifts for families in need. We collect information from the above schools and then use **the Target gift cards** that our congregation gives, to buy the clothes and gifts that are requested. **Our youth will go shopping and we are asking everyone to help wrap gifts on Sunday, December 7th in between services in rooms 48,49,and 50 in the Center of Compassion.** Thank you so much for your generous support of this project.



Refugee Family Co-Sponsorship with Lutheran Social Services:

Our Co-Sponsorship Team has been helping with a refugee family from Syria. The help that is needed is working with the adults who are learning English. This team is making wonderful progress and forming some beautiful relationships with the family as well. We have provided back to school clothing and backpacks for each of the four children. Along with teaching them English. If you are interested in learning more or think you might like to join this team, please contact Chris Norden at norden6162@gmail.com

Help Restock the Lutheran Food Banks by participating in Reverse Advent Boxes:

Reverse Advent Boxes: There are some more boxes in the narthex of the Sanctuary if you would like to have one. On the inside cover of the box is a suggested item to put in each day. PLEASE ONLY BUY THE SIZE THAT IS REQUESTED! Advent Food Boxes will be collected from Dec. 21-28. These boxes will then be distributed to First Evangelical Food Bank in downtown Mesa and Victory Food Bank to help replenish their shelves after the holiday season. Please remember not to tape the top shut.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace News

Ten-thousand beds to kids in the Phoenix area in seven years!



We are celebrating the 10,000th bed to be delivered soon to a child in the Phoenix area! The Phoenix Chapter began 7 years ago and is still going strong to meet the need of our community.

Thanks to all the donors of time and funds to make this exciting milestone happen. The reason for this effort which improves the lives of children in our community is brought home every time we witness a child receiving a bed for the first time!

We are also fortunate to have a lot of individuals who continue to make blankets and contribute stuffed animals, books and sheets.

THANK YOU!



Many of us have had Advent calendars where a count-down to Christmas includes opening a small flap which exposes a treat or a surprise of some kind. A reverse Advent box gives us an opportunity to share the joy we experience as we count down the days to the celebration of Christ's birth in a manger. But many of our neighbors experience a worry about having enough food to feed their families throughout the year. A reverse Advent box gives us an opportunity to reach out to those in need by supplying Food Banks with a box of non-perishable items that are most needed. By putting one of the listed items in the supplied box each day during Advent, we

will put into action our command to love our neighbor by helping those who need it most. You can bring your box in any Sunday during December and we will bless them on Christmas eve. They will be transported after Christmas to two Lutheran Social Service Food Banks after Christmas. The list of non-perishable items will be in box and available on the Love of Christ website and in the ENews. Pick up your box beginning Sunday, November 30th and deliver it to the church anytime before Christmas eve. We will be delivering all 100 boxes to the food banks the first week in January.

DATE	ITEM	DONATED
Dec. 1st	Box of Cereal (12 oz. size)	
Dec. 2nd	Peanut Butter (28 oz.)	
Dec. 3rd	Canned Soup (18 oz.)	
Dec. 4th	Box of Potatoes (Mashed, Scalloped, Casserole etc)	
Dec. 5th	Mac and Cheese (with premade cheese packet)	
Dec. 6th	Canned or plastic jar of Fruit (15.25 oz.)	
Dec. 7th	Canned Tomatoes (14.5 oz.)	
Dec. 8th	Canned (or pouch) Tuna (12 oz.)	
Dec. 9th	Dessert Mix (pudding, fudge, cake mix, etc.)	
Dec. 10th	Plastic jar of Applesauce (23 oz.)	
Dec. 11th	Canned green beans (14.5 oz.)	
Dec. 12th	Package of Pasta (16 oz.)	
Dec. 13th	Jar of Pasta Sauce (24 oz.)	
Dec. 14th	Canned pinto beans (15.5 oz.)	
Dec. 15th	Canned black beans (15.5 oz.)	
Dec. 16th	Canned vegetable (14.5 oz.)	
Dec. 17th	Shelf stable or powdered milk (can or box)	
Dec. 18th	Can of stew or chili (15 oz.)	
Dec. 19th	Box of Crackers (13 oz.)	
Dec. 20th	Package of Rice (32 oz.)	
Dec. 21st	Canned meat (Ham, Spam) (12 oz.)	
Dec. 22nd	Canned chicken (12.5 oz.)	
Dec. 23rd	Instant noodles or soup (18 oz.)	
Dec. 24th	Granola bars (25 oz.)	

🌸 MomCo at Love of Christ Lutheran Church! 🌸

Calling all moms! Whether you're in the thick of toddlerhood, navigating teenage years, or somewhere in between — you're not alone.



We're excited to announce that our church will now be hosting MomCo, a community designed for moms, by moms. MomCo is a place where women gather in circles of support, friendship, and faith — because raising humans is both beautiful and hard, and no one should have to do it alone:

- Build meaningful, lasting friendships
- Encourage and equip moms to lead with love
- Grow the church by nurturing families in faith
- Bring mothers and their families closer to Jesus

Join Us! Location: Love of Christ

📅 When: Next meeting December 3rd, every 1st Wednesday of the month | 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM in Godly Playroom (Nursery) located in entrance to Center of Compassion.

📞 Contact: Kacey Weir or Pastor Nanette Christofferson 🌐

Online Options: - <http://www.themom.co/groups/loveofchristmesa>

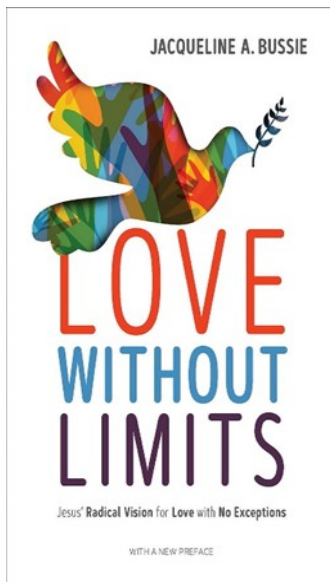
Love Without Limits meets again on December 3rd

In her book, Jacqueline Bussie says nothing is more scandalous than a “love without limits.” How does a love without limits mirror Jesus and the God we are called to serve? How does this echo Jesus’ ministry in Luke 15 (the parables of being lost) or Paul’s proclamation in Galatians 3:28 (There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one Christ Jesus)? This study is open to all women who are interested in learning about our God who loves without limits!

This book, Love Without Limits, by Jacqueline Bussie is available on Amazon. https://www.amazon.com/s?k=love+without+limits+jacqueline+bussie&crd=OPMUBD4M8181&s_prefix=Love+Without+Limits%2Caps%2C480&ref=nb_sb_ss_p13n-pd-dplr-ranker_3_19

You can purchase it online for \$13.46. There will be a few books for purchase on the first day of the study. We are looking forward to seeing everyone and hope that you will be able to join us!

This group will meet the first Wednesday of the month at 4:30-5:30 in the Fellowship hall.



Scripture Lesson

A Brief Look at Isaiah 11:1-10

with Pastor Nanette Christofferson

(12 min)



YouTube: <https://youtu.be/fq8gYQiehEw>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/reel/821530870763683/>

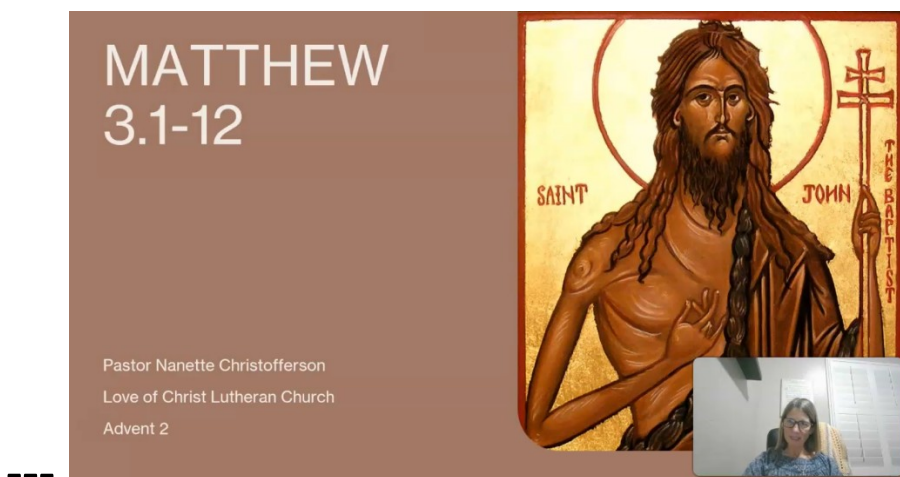
Website: <https://www.loveofchristchurch.net/media/series/7vjwfnk/bible-lessons>

Scripture Lesson

A Brief Look at Matthew 3:1-12

with Pastor Nanette Christofferson

(13 min)



YouTube: <https://youtu.be/ZTGhDVMDIrs>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/reel/1173354718310819/>

Website: <https://www.loveofchristchurch.net/media/series/7vjwfnk/bible-lessons>

Sunday, December 7, 2025, 7:50 am, 9 and 10:30,

some on  &



Pastor Nanette Christofferson —"Advent Preparation"

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow^[a] out of his roots.
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,
but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed^[a] together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's
den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the
peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling
shall be glorious.

Romans 15:4-13

For whatever was written in former days was written for
our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the en-
couragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May
the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to
live in harmony with one another, in accordance with
Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glo-
rify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has wel-
comed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ
has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the
truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises
given to the ancestors and that the gentiles might glorify
God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles
and sing praises to your name";

and again he says,

"Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people"; and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him";

and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the gentiles;
in him the gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in be-
lieving, so that you may abound in hope by the power of
the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilder-
ness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of
heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the
prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.' "

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt
around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild hon-
ey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region
around the Jordan were going out to him, and they were
baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees
coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of
vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming
wrath? Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and do
not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as
our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones
to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying
at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not
bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who
is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not
worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the
Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and
he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat
into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquench-
able fire."